

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1896.—32 PAGES.

BRAVES HONOR RICHARD CROKER.

Tammany Men Enjoyed the \$40-a-Plate Dinner Given in His Honor.

Their Guest Presented with the Loving Cup by Senator Thomas F. Grady.

In Reply the Former Leader Made a Strong Appeal for Harmony in the Wigwam.

EX-REGISTER REILLY'S RUMPUS.

Objected to Croker's Flattering Allusion to John C. Sheehan as Leader of Tammany Hall, but Was Quickly Subdued.

Richard Croker, looking strangely dark for a man seated within the rays of one hundred incandescent lights, was toasted and feted at the Savoy last evening with a lavishness which has never before been equaled in New York. The dinner began shortly after 7 o'clock, and by 11 o'clock the enthusiasm had reached its maddest stage, but through it all the dark little man, with his closely cropped beard and his square jaws, remained unmoved.

So far as the eye could see, there was no flush of pleasure or pride on his cheeks. As he bowed in acknowledgment of the plaudits of the men who have followed him through thick and thin, a sort of grim smile played about his bearded lips—the same smile that many a race track plunger has noted when Dobbins has gone under the wire a winner; the smile which Richard Croker's intimates will tell you confidentially is the only expression of a feeling of triumph of which he is ever guilty.

It was the most pretentious banquet that Tammany Hall had ever attempted. In the magnificence of its appointments it far surpassed all the other banquets in the history of this noted political organization, and it was the most noted gathering of representative Tammany men that New York has ever seen. To limit an oration to Tammany's old chieftain to 150 participants was a Herculean task, and one fraught with grave danger to the man who attempted the feat. Peter F. Meyer, the business partner of the guest of the evening, who has no political ambitions to speak of, was happily chosen to select the guests.

TAMMANY'S WARD M'ALLISTER. Mr. Meyer will forever receive the credit of having been to Tammany Hall what Ward McAllister was to the Four Hundred. Mr. Meyer succeeded in lending to last evening's banquet an effectiveness which hitherto has been a stranger to Tammany gatherings. The environments, the guests, the very atmosphere itself, bespoke the requirement of a dinner costing \$40 a plate. The marvel of it was that all this should have been brought about by a man who stowed away his ten courses beneath a pepper-and-salt cutaway coat and vest. Strange as it may seem, this young social



TAMMANY HALL'S FEAST IN HONOR OF RICHARD CROKER.

to reach the hall before Amos Cummings began telling stories. A BEAUTIFUL BANQUETING ROOM. When the guests were ushered into the Savoy's new banquet room, few were able to repress an exclamation at its liveliness. The floral decorations by Stump were of roses and carnations, but the effect of the whole was superb. The speaker's table was at the head of the hall on a two-foot high platform, while four long tables extended along the room

of red ribbon. On each of the four long tables were placed two baskets, each five feet long, containing American Beauties. In all there were over 20,000 roses used in the decorations. The guests were in the laps of their coats boutonniere composed of six white carnations. The pastry cook of the hotel had entered thoroughly into the spirit of the occasion with the result that on the right of Mr. Sheehan was a huge naugat representing the Tammany tiger in a jungle of green confection, while on his left was a second huge naugat adorned by candied figures of an Indian brave, surrounded by a loving squaw and her papoose. Similar evidences of the pastry cook's skill were shown at the long tables, where stood the sugary figures of Father Knickerbocker, a Tammany chieftain, Uncle Sam and Martha Washington.

At the speaker's table Leader John C. Sheehan presided, with Richard Croker at his left hand. On his right was Senator Thomas F. Grady, and the other guests seated there were District-Attorney Pel- lows, ex-Mayor Gilroy, Congressman Amos J. Cummings, County Clerk Henry D. Pur- roy, Augustus W. Peters, ex-Mayor Grant, Justice Frederick Smith, Senator Cantor, Nathan Straus, James J. Martin and ex-Governor Flower.

AT THE OTHER TABLES.

Among those seated at the other tables were: Judge P. H. Dugro, Thomas L. Feltner, Dr. William T. Jenkins, George W. Plunkitt, Judge Edward F. O'Dwyer, John B. McGoldrick, William A. Burke, Thomas S. Brennan, William E. Stillings, Surgeon Frank T. Fitzgerald, Surgeon John H. V. Arnold, David McClure, John Fox, Judge Leonard A. Gierke, John D. Croom, ex-Lieutenant-Governor William F. Sheehan, William H. Clark, J. Sergeant Cram, Anthony N. Brady, Michael T. Daly, Judge John P. Schoonman, Joseph J. O'Donohue, Congressman George B. McCallan, Congressman Henry C. Miner, Congressman William Sulzer, Asa Bird Gardner, Colonel Michael O. Murphy, Justice Washburne, Bernard F. Martin, William F. Moore, Henry W. Unger, Jefferson M. Levy, P. Joseph Scully, Judge Henry M. Goldfogle, Senator Samuel J. Foley, Sheriff William Schuster, Senator Timothy D. Sullivan, Judge Joseph Koch, Daniel F. Martin, Bernard Bourke, Francis J. Lantry, Judge James M. Fitzsimmons, Judge Robert A. Van Wyck, John F. Carroll, ex-Sheriff John B. Sexton, Hollis M. Morgan, Jacob Ruppert, Jr., Bartow S. Weeks, John E. Brodsky, Benjamin T. Rhoads, Jr., Maurice Featherston, Edward C. Sheely, Daniel M. Donegan, Lawrence Delmour, John F. McIntyre, John J. Ryan, John H. McCarthy, Andrew J. White, Jacob Seabold, Senator Charles L. Guy and Franklin Bartlett.

Beside each guest's plate was a most elaborate souvenir. On the front cover of Levant Russia leather was a silver chased plate, bearing the announcement of the dinner. The covers, lined with white watered silk, inclosed, besides the menu and list of toasts, a portrait of Mr. Croker in platinum and a steel engraving of the loving cup.

SOLEMN IN THE EARLY HOURS.

In the early hours of the evening it was the most decorous banquet ever given in the Savoy, and the result was an almost unbroken silence from 7:15 p. m. until 9:30 o'clock. The men all wore stern countenances, and it was in vain that the orchestra, hidden from view by towering palms, endeavored to awaken them by the strains of "Oh, Uncle John" and "Maggie Murphy's Home."

But when Toastmaster Sheehan rapped for order the enthusiasm broke loose. As

soon as he could check the applause, Toastmaster Sheehan said:

"A Sagacious Leader of Men."

GENTLEMEN: THE OCCASION WHICH BRINGS us together this evening is one of unusual interest. It is, I believe, the first time that all the members of the Executive Committee and other prominent members of the organization who represent the Democratic party of this country have met at a purely social gathering. We have met to-night to extend a cordial greeting to a gentleman who is near and dear to all of us, a sincere friend, a safe and wise counsellor, the sagacious and able leader of men, Richard Croker. It is a pleasure to welcome him here to-night and to bear witness that our affection and admiration for the unconquered leader of Tammany Hall is no way diminished because we see less of him than formerly. I know I speak the sentiment which is uppermost in the hearts of those present when I say that we rejoice to have him with us. In person, it may only be for a few days, but in the journey he is about to take, no matter what part of the globe, we wish him God speed and a safe return, and we know that he will find no friends more steadfast or more loyal than those who sit around him to-night, and none who would follow his guidance with more devotion or greater zeal. They are the Old Guard of Tammany Hall, who die, but never surrender. Over one hundred years ago the fathers of the Democratic party founded Tammany Hall. The motto it adopted, "Civil Liberty, the glory of man," proclaimed its purpose and its object. It stands to-day representing, as it did at that time, good government, yes, honest government by the plain people of this country. It stands for the cause of the wage earner and the toiler, and is the champion of the oppressed of all lands. For more than a century Tammany Hall has proved faithful and steadfast to Democracy. In all the great political events that have occurred in the history of our republic, its sons have always stood in the van fighting the battle of the people. Among the great names inscribed upon our country's roll of honor will be found those of many of our followers. When we read of the acts of those great Democratic leaders, we are proud of their efforts and we admire their patriotism. The impartial historian in recording the work of the leaders of our party will detract nothing from those who have gone before by placing in the front rank of those generals who have so often led us to victory the name of our guest, Richard Croker, and I ask a gentleman whose speech and actions for him is unbounded to respond to that toast, the Hon. Thomas F. Grady.

GRADY'S ELOQUENT WORDS.

When the silver-tongued Grady arose there was a great demonstration; three cheers for him and cheers after a tiger for Mr. Croker. The orator extolled his former chief as a truthful, a brave and a generous man, but one who once convinced that he was right called upon his fellow-men to follow him without fear and without hope of reward. He called him the most beloved leader, whom not only Tammany, but all fair-minded men delighted to honor. In presenting the cup he said, facing Mr. Croker:

"This loving cup, which, in its very name, is emblematic of the purity of this heart's reception, is to remain with you and with your children as the testimony of the friendship individually and collectively of every man in this hall this evening. It is made of virgin silver, and in

the purity of the metal there is no better type of the purity and affection that goes with it from the heart of every man here. It might be considered by any man a prize of great value from its intrinsic and artistic value.

"To you it will mean much more. When distance separates you from those who esteem you the highest in this land, this will remain with you. It will speak to you more eloquently than can be expressed by the weak phrasing of our language, telling you how dear you are to us, not in exalted public station, not in the power of political leadership, and of our loving regard to you as an honorable man, of unswerving loyalty.

"Take it; it is the evidence of the best affection of our hearts. Keep it, so that long after the youngest of us shall have passed away it shall tell of the friendship which moved its donors. You can receive it from no more unworthy hands than mine, from no more grateful heart. From the bottom of our hearts we exclaim: 'God bless you, God prosper you. Health and contentment be ever with you and yours.'"

He then placed the cup in front of Mr. Croker, and then a most enthusiastic scene occurred. The banqueters arose, cheered and waved their napkins for half a minute. Finally, when order was restored, Mr. Croker arose amid applause and hand-clapping and said:

Croker's Appeal for Harmony.

MY FRIENDS: I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY for the great compliment of your presence here, and I am deeply conscious of the sincerity of the sentiment which occasions your assemblage to-night. This magnificent testimonial of your friendship, which has been presented to me in your name, in glowing and beautiful language by the gifted Senator, I most gratefully accept. If I deserved in any degree the praises spoken in your behalf I could believe myself a most successful and a fortunate man, but you, gentlemen, who have been associated with me in so many political struggles are well aware that I always attributed the success of the organization with which we have been so long identified not to my individual endeavors but to your loyalty and truth, and to the unity and cohesion which marked your efforts to promote the prosperity and glory of Tammany Hall and of the masses who were faithful to the doctrines of true democracy. There are many here who have been associated with me in so many political struggles are well aware that I always attributed the success of the organization with which we have been so long identified not to my individual endeavors but to your loyalty and truth, and to the unity and cohesion which marked your efforts to promote the prosperity and glory of Tammany Hall and of the masses who were faithful to the doctrines of true democracy. There are many here who have been associated with me in so many political struggles are well aware that I always attributed the success of the organization with which we have been so long identified not to my individual endeavors but to your loyalty and truth, and to the unity and cohesion which marked your efforts to promote the prosperity and glory of Tammany Hall and of the masses who were faithful to the doctrines of true democracy.

MAITIME MISHAPS.

London, Feb. 8.—Captain Mazella, of the Italian bark Armonia, from Mobile, which arrived at Buenos Ayres January 13 with damage to her cargo, has noted protest. The British ship Belfast, Captain Smith, from Bremen December 13, for New York, which was spoken January 22 making for Fayal with loss of masts, yards and sails, has been sighted off St. Michael's. Captain Douglas, of the British ship Glen- gow, from Swansea October 15, for San Francisco, which arrived at Stanley, Falkland Islands, in December gutted by fire, and which was scuttled to extinguish the flames, has discharged all of the crew with the exception of the first mate. The Norwegian bark Kong Sverre, Captain Larsen, from Wilmington, N. C., via Falmouth, for Stettin, has arrived at Sunderland with some of her stanchions broken and having sustained other damage. She has discharged a part of her cargo into lighters, and is being repaired.

the full measure of my appreciation of your attachment. It will be jealously guarded by me during my life, and when I pass away it will be preserved by my children as the most prized bequest from their father. It will be to them as a manifestation of the esteem in which their father was held, and I assure you that my children will treasure it as evidence of that generous friendship of which I am most proud. In parting with you, from the depths of my heart I extend to one and all of those who are present, and to the Democrats of this Imperial city with whom I was associated in the great struggles of the past, the hope and fervent wish that their future may abound in concord, prosperity and happiness.

EX-REGISTER REILLY'S OUTBREAK.

As soon as the applause subsided Mr. Croker added: "Gentlemen, you have been fortunate in selecting as your leader Mr. John C. Sheehan."

Ex-Register John Reilly, who sat near the speaker's table, at once arose and inquired angrily: "Who selected John Sheehan?"

In a moment there was confusion. "Sit down!" cried out a score of members at once. Mr. Sheehan rapped for order. "The organization selected him," he said sternly, "and as the organization selected him, we must and will support him." Mr. Reilly remained quiet thereafter.

Thereafter Mr. Croker's address was devoted to a defence of Sheehan and an assurance that Mr. Sheehan would do only what is right and just. He also paid a tribute to Henry D. Purroy, and said that he was not doing anything to bring about dissensions in the organization.

Congressman Amos J. Cummings responded to the toast "Our Country." "Our State and City" was next responded to by Senator Jacob A. Cantor, and he in turn was followed by District-Attorney John R. Fellows, whose toast was "Tammany Hall." This ended the speech making.

Freed by the Nuptial Knot.

Antonio Conzo, a music teacher, went to Ellis Island Friday to meet, as he thought, his bride. Antonio came from Corsenza, Italy, six years ago. He left behind his sweetheart, Maria Alonzo. Two years ago Antonio wrote to his brother to marry Maria for him by proxy. This was done, but she brought no proofs of the marriage, and the Special Board of Inquiry refused to allow her to remain in the country until she had married Antonio. Hand in hand, accompanied by Ellis Island officials, the happy couple went to the Mayor's office. The Mayor was not in, so the marriage ceremony was performed by an Alderman.

SPIEGEL FREE AND SEEKING JUSTICE.

The Wholesale Liquor Dealer Avers That He Was Railroaded to Prison.

Sues the Group of Insurance Companies That Were Instrumental in His Conviction.

FALSE OATHS OF A BOOKKEEPER.

Biles, Who Spiegel, in Affidavits Submitted to Governor Morton, Says Embezzled \$45,000 from Him, Became the Prosecuting Witness.

After having served a year in State prison, Morris Spiegel, the importer and wholesale dealer in wines and liquors, who, on December 20, 1902, was convicted of having falsified proofs of loss by fire, and sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment, is once more free, and is now pressing his claims against the several insurance companies through whose efforts he avers that he was convicted and railroaded to prison for a crime of which he was innocent.

Spiegel, through the efforts of his counsel, ex-Judge Daniels, a member of Congress from Buffalo, was pardoned by Governor Morton on October 24 last, just a year, lacking one day, after he had put on convict stripes.

In his application for a pardon, ex-Judge Daniels presented affidavits and proofs tending to show that Spiegel's conviction had been brought about by the perjured testimony of a bookkeeper who was in his employ, and who had robbed him of thousands of dollars by falsifying his stock book.

Spiegel has conducted a general wholesale wine and liquor business at Nos. 101 and 103 Broad street for years, under the firm name of A. Blum, Jr. & Sons, and carried an insurance amounting to \$5,000 in several insurance companies. On December 16, 1901, a fire occurred in the building and Spiegel placed the damage by fire at about \$2,000. His subsequently discovered that his stock had been damaged by water. On examining his stock book Mr. Spiegel discovered a number of errors. As he was unable to ascertain from the books the exact amount of stock in the building at the time of the fire, he instructed his adjusters to itemize the damaged stock in the proofs of loss. This was done and the amount placed at \$70,000.

NEW COMPLICATIONS.

Spiegel refused to swear to the proofs and requested the insurance companies to have the damaged stock appraised. Two appraisers were appointed, and after half of the list of damaged stock had been verified, one of the appraisers resigned.

While waiting for a new appraiser to be appointed, Spiegel was indicted on the testimony of his bookkeeper, Otto Biles, who was before the Grand Jury and testified that he had falsified the books at the suggestion of Spiegel in order to make it appear that the stock claimed as damaged was in the building at the time of the fire. Spiegel was arrested, and the same day Biles went before four notaries public and swore that the testimony he had given before the Grand Jury was false and had been given by him after he had been threatened with imprisonment by Francis Weisman, the then Assistant District Attorney, and the lawyer for the insurance companies. These affidavits were given to District-Attorney Nicoll, and Biles was arrested for perjury. He then made other affidavits that the testimony given before the Grand Jury was true and had been given freely. He was then released on bail and was the principal witness against Spiegel at his trial.

The trial was held before Judge Russell, of St. Lawrence County, in the Court of General Sessions, on December 20, 1902. Spiegel was found guilty. The case was appealed, and the verdict of guilty being upheld, Spiegel was taken to State prison on October 25, 1904.

BILES'S EXPENSIVE LIVING.

While the case was on appeal Spiegel alleges that he discovered that Biles, who was on a moderate salary, lived in style in New Jersey, and was driven to the office every day in a private coach, had systematically robbed him of \$45,000, but had disappeared after the trial and conviction.

Ex-Judge Daniels, who was retained by Spiegel while he was in prison, presented these facts to Governor Morton, and through the insurance companies protested, the Governor took the papers in the case under consideration, and finally granted the pardon.

The suits against the insurance companies were commenced by Spiegel prior to his conviction, and are for the full amount of the insurance—\$35,000.

"I had the stock appraised by reputable men before I brought the suits," said Mr. Spiegel yesterday, "and they valued the damaged stock at almost \$80,000. I never swore to the proofs of loss by fire, and simply submitted them to the insurance companies in the rough. When their appraiser discovered that the amount could not be reduced he resigned, and my arrest and conviction on perjured testimony followed."

When asked if he intended to take any action against Biles, Mr. Spiegel said:

"I will as soon as I can locate him. He disappeared when he learned that I had been pardoned. I will not only proceed against him, but against every one who had any part in railroadng me to prison. My case is now in the hands of ex-Judge Daniels, and I will do whatever he advises me to. The suits against the insurance companies will be brought to trial shortly."

TRIED TO STRANGLE HIS WIFE.

Joseph Keller, a truck driver, of No. 522 East Eighteenth street, went home last night intoxicated and unmercifully beat his wife, Elizabeth, and with difficulty restrained from strangling his two children, aged two years and two weeks. Keller is six feet in height and weighs about 180 pounds, while his wife is a small woman, weighing about ninety pounds. Policeman Wells, of the East Fifth Street station, arrived just in time and took Keller to the police station.



Menu	
Chickens	Carbennatus
Amontillado	
Rhodesheimer, '88	
Poulet Chate, '90	
Piper Haddock, Brut Extra	Mort & Chandon, White Seal
Pomery	G. H. Mumm & Co.
Nuts	
Apollinaris	
Liqueurs	
OYSTERS	
Lynnhaven Bay	
SOUPS	
Chicken Gumbo	
Clear Green Turtle	
HOT	
Canapé Savoy	
FISH	
Planked Spanish Mackerel	
Cucumber Salad	
JOINT	
Spring Lamb, Mint Sauce	
French Asparagus	
Bermuda Potatoes	
ENTREES	
Squab Truffé, Demi-Doff	
Fresh Artichokes, Braisé	
Terrapin, Philadelphia Style	
INDIAN PUNCH	
ROAST	
Ruddy Duck with Hominy	
Celery and Tomato Maitonaise	
COLD	
Aspic of Goose Liver	
Heart of Lettuce Salad	
SWEET	
Pommes à la Bengale	
Cakes	
Nuts	
Cheese	
Coffee	

What the Guests Ate and Drank at the \$40 a Plate Dinner.

Napoleon of East Fourteenth street appeared in the same raiment as he wears when knocking down a corner lot. No one expected Barney Bourke to stand revealed in evening dress—his political influence would wane and die if he dared to show a wide expanse of immaculate shirt front—but for this new social leader to content himself with a cutaway coat and plain leather shoes puzzled his fellow-guests.

Not all of the 150 guests who had been invited to pay homage and enjoy the privilege of four different brands of champagne and the distinction of having attended the Croker dinner were able to accept. United States Senator Edward T. Murphy, of Troy, telegraphed that he was suffering from a severe cold, while Comptroller Ashbel P. Fitch went away to Old Point Comfort on Friday. Ex-Governor Roswell P. Flower sent word early in the evening that while he couldn't pay his respects to the ten-advertised czar, he yet saw his way clear

to very near the entrance. Before each of the plates was a gilded chair, while the names of the guests were on cards, embossed with the gilded outlines of a tiger's head. The speaker's table was a mass of American Beauty roses, but so arranged that the countenances of the distinguished guests were visible to all. This table was banked with a group of palms and crotches, the later coming from the Tilden sale at the Greystone conservatories.

On each side of the banquet room are fourteen windows, draped with canopies of dark red and gold, and the recesses of these windows had been converted into miniature conservatories of palms, while at each corner of the hall was a giant rubber plant. Interspersed with the tropical verdure were the American beauty roses of great size and quantities of large pink roses.

THE TIGER IN NOUGAT. The roses were tied with wide streamers